

HEALTH ADVISORY

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Public Health & Human Services

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Swine Influenza

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced this afternoon that seven confirmed human cases of swine influenza have been identified in California and Texas. None of these cases had direct exposure to swine; therefore, there is concern about person-to-person transmission of the novel swine influenza virus. Symptoms in these cases are similar to seasonal influenza (cough, fever and sore throat). There is no evidence to suggest that this virus is more virulent or the illness more severe. *The primary concern about this situation is that this is a novel strain of influenza and appears to be transmitted person-to-person.*

DPHHS Recommendations:

In order to identify potential cases in Montana, please SUSTAIN current influenza surveillance activity. Clinicians who identify cases of influenza-like illness are encouraged to submit nasopharyngeal specimens to the MT Public Health Laboratory.

Control measures for seasonal influenza apply to swine influenza as well:

- Stay home when sick to avoid spreading illness to co-workers and friends.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue and properly dispose of used tissues
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to get rid of most germs and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay healthy by eating a balanced diet, drinking plenty of water and getting adequate rest and exercise.

Recommendations for Clinicians:

1. Clinicians should maintain vigilance for cases of influenza like illness (ILI). ILI is defined as fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ / 37.8°C (oral or equivalent) AND cough and/or sore throat in the absence of a KNOWN cause other than influenza.
2. Clinicians who see a patient with ILI should obtain the following information for the 7 days previous to onset of illness:
 - a. Travel history (particularly travel to California and Texas)
 - b. Exposure to pigs
 - c. Exposure to other persons with ILI
3. Clinicians who see a patient with ILI should obtain nasopharyngeal swabs from the patient, place in viral transport medium and send to the Montana Public Health Laboratory for further testing. *Testing will be provided at no cost to the patient or provider.*
4. Clinicians should notify the local health department if they feel submission of specimens to the Montana Public Health Laboratory is warranted. The local health department can assist with case investigation and follow-up.

Updates about this situation will be available daily after 3pm EDT at: www.cdc.gov

MMWR Report: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm58d0421a1.htm>

For more information on swine influenza: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/index.htm>